Post 6/28/67

'K' Feels He Won Cuba Victory

NEW YORK, June 27 (AP) —Former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev is quoted as saying in a tape-recorded interview that he feels the 1962 Cuban missile crisis was a victory for the Soviet Union over the United States.

The rockets, he said, were sent to Cuba to forestall an American attack against that country and, since there was no attack, the strategy was successful.

The interview, believed to be the first available in the West since Khrushchev was deposed in October 1964, will be broadcast by NBC July 11 together with silent color film showing the former Premier in retirement.

Portions of the tape were released last night by the network which said it had obtained the tape and film from "private sources" inside the Soviet Union and other countries.

William R. McAndrew, NBC News president, said the interviews were conducted over a period of months-the last one in March—and that so far as he knew the Soviet government was not aware they had taken place.

On the tape, a Russian voice, reportedly that of Khrushchev, is heard making remarks while an interpreter translates the words into English. The voice said that during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, "I must confess that I slept one night in my studio fully dressed on the sofa. I did not want to be in the position of one Western minister who, during the Suez crisis, rushed to the telephone without his trousers . . ."

"Perhaps we shouldn't have done it," the party interviewed said of the decision to send missiles to Cuba. "But if rockets had not been installed, would there be a Cuba now? No, it would have been wiped out, and, if that's true, it means that our transportation of rockets was justified. It cost us money, but we didn't lose a single man."

In response, President John F. Kennedy in October of 1962 ordered a naval and air quarantine on shipment of offensive military equipment to Cuba. Kennedy and Khrushchev reached agreement Oct. 28 on a formula to end the crisis. and the President said Nov. 2 that Soviet missile bases in Cuba were being dismantled.

The voice also quoted Chinese Communisty Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung as saying in a 1959 meeting with Khrushchev in Peking: "Comrade Khrushchev, you have only to provoke the Americans to military action and I will give you as many people as you wish-100 divisions, 200 divisions, 1000."

The person interviewed reported he refused to supply nuclear armaments to Red China during that meeting, and said this refusal maintained world peace.